

STEERING, LEGISLATIVE & GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

December 1, 2008

5:30 p.m.

Courthouse

MINUTES:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Jack Black
Commissioner Adam Coggin
Commissioner Gary Farley
Commissioner Jeff Jordan
Commissioner Jeff Phillips
Commissioner Steve Sandlin
Commissioner John Rodgers, C

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ernest Burgess Doug Shafer
Ronald Williams Mike Nunley
Susan Allen Steve Schroeder
Lee Colvin Kyle Ingram
Megan Maguigan Kim Strader
Mandy Strader Becky Shelton

Chairman Rodgers presided and called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with all members being present at that time.

MINUTES:

"Commissioner Coggin moved, seconded by Commissioner Phillips, to approve the minutes of the last meeting as mailed. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

FILL CORONER VACANCY:

Chairman Rodgers advised an application had been received from J. Mike Nunley for appointment to the Coroner position. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Farley moved, seconded by Commissioner Sandlin, to approve the appointment of J. Mike Nunley as Coroner. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

FILL THREE VACANCIES ON AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD:

Chairman Rodgers advised applications had been received from Ronald Williams for the Commissioner vacancy; Jean Wilson for the farm woman vacancy and Tommy Gentry for the farmer vacancy on the Agricultural Advisory Board. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Phillips moved, seconded by Commissioner Black, to recommend the appointments of Ronald Williams for the Commissioner vacancy; Jean Wilson for the farm woman vacancy and Tommy Gentry for the farmer vacancy on the Agricultural Advisory Board. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

ANNOUNCE VACANCY ON CONSERVATION BOARD:

Chairman Rodgers next advised the position of Chuck Clark on the Conservation Board was expiring and accordingly being announced.

ANNOUNCE TWO VACANCIES ON CORRECTIONAL WORK CENTER BOARD:

Chairman Rodgers advised the positions of Tom Hartley and Grant Kelley on the Correctional Work Center Board were expiring January, 2009, and said positions were being announced.

APPOINTMENT OF JUDICIAL COMMISSIONERS:

Chairman Rodgers next advised Judges of the General Sessions and Juvenile Court of Rutherford County have requested appointment of Alexandra Timberlake and Sherry Hamlett as judicial

commissioners pursuant to the authority contained in Tennessee Public Acts of 1978, Chapter 933, for terms not to exceed four years and such terms to conclude and terminate if and when the terms are concluded or the service with Rutherford County is terminated. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Farley moved, seconded by Commissioner Phillips, to recommend appointment of Alexandra Timberlake and Sherry Hamlett as judicial commissioners for terms not to exceed four years and such terms to conclude and terminate if and when the terms are concluded or the service with Rutherford County is terminated. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

TAX FREEZE PROGRAM:

Chairman Rodgers advised Teb Batey reported the Trustee's Association has formed a Committee to look at the Tax Freeze program and make recommendations. Mr. Batey will report back at a later date.

RECORDS COMMISSION:

Commissioner Farley next advised since 1994 the County has been mandated to have a Public Records Commission. Some members do not receive any compensation but some are County employees and receive their regular salaries. State law allows a \$25 per diem payment for meetings. Chairman Farley suggested if a member of the Records Commission is not drawing a County salary that said member be entitled to receive the \$25 per diem payment.

Commissioner Phillips advised he wanted the County Attorney to do a Resolution with research on what other counties do as to payment for Records Commission members. Additionally, the Director of the Records Commission will be asked to attend the next meeting to present an overview.

"Commissioner Phillips moved, seconded by Commissioner Farley, to have the County Attorney prepare a Resolution with research on what other counties do as to pay and request the Director of the Records Commission attend the next Steering meeting for an overview. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

Chairman Rogers advised equal treatment under the law should be reviewed also.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES:

Commissioner Farley next advised in the past there have been questions on parliamentary procedures. He is advised there are certified parliamentarians and he wanted to ask the Mayor to find someone to contract with to answer such questions. Commissioner Sandlin advised the County has someone for this in the County Attorney. Mayor Burgess advised he thought there was someone at MTSU that was a certified parliamentarian and would request authority to talk to them and have an open discussion. He will report back with details as to any fee or contract required. Mayor Burgess advised there is one outstanding question involving a negative motion and he thought it would be wise to have a resource available. Commissioner Sandlin advised the Mayor has miscellaneous funds and can do this under that line item if there is not a contractual obligation. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Farley moved, seconded by Commissioner Phillips, to authorize the Mayor to explore the issue of a certified parliamentarian and report back. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

MEETING WITH LEGISLATORS:

Mayor Burgess next requested potential dates for the annual meeting with the legislators and suggested the regular meeting date of January 5 or the 12th or 13th. The meeting will be January 5 or alternatively January 7 or 13 depending on when the legislators can meet. Commissioner Phillips advised when the date is selected Commissioners need to be asked for in-put as to topics of discussion.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION REGARDING BARGAINING UNITS IN PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mayor Burgess next advised there is Federal legislation pending enabling public safety units such as the Sheriff's Office and Ambulance Service to form bargaining units without an official election and with only 51% of the people signing a petition. This would require mandatory negotiations with these bargaining units. In a meeting with other mayors, a Resolution jointly opposing this action was requested.

Commissioner Phillips advised this legislation has been pending for a while but with the election of President Elect Obama it has been given more serious consideration. Commissioner Phillips advised he thought it was in the best interest of the County to have a representative from CTAS, MTAS, the Chamber or the County Attorney provide more information to the County on this change to longstanding labor laws and the effect on the County as an employer. Mayor Burgess will find out what resources are available and make a report next month.

WHEEL TAX:

Commissioner Shafer next addressed the Committee advising there is a substantial number of citizens that do not purchase the wheel tax and go outside the county to purchase their tags although the county provides an education to their children.

Commissioner Shafer advised Bart Smith thinks the Rutherford County Private Act as written says he cannot enforce the Wheel Tax law on State roads. Commissioner Shafer requested this be put on the Steering agenda to look into and potentially update the Private Act. Commissioner Farley advised he would like for the County Attorney to advise as to whether Mr. Smith can enforce the Wheel Tax law on State highways.

The Committee discussed the fact parents enrolling children into schools have to present a utility bill with a home address. Potentially, valid car registration could be requested.

Mayor Burgess questioned if there were any State overriding laws so the Private Act was worded the way it was. The County Attorney will be asked to attend the next meeting.

EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT INFOMERCIAL ON CHANNEL 19:

Commissioner Williams advised in attending a fire department training session the statistics on the number of accidents involving emergency vehicles were staggering and he was requesting dialog on getting something on Channel 19 to advise the public about emergency vehicles on the public roads. The Committee advised Murfreesboro Channel 3 had a good infomercial and potentially the County could piggyback on this information.

There appearing to be no further business to come before

the Committee, Chairman Rodgers declared the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

JOHN RODGERS, Chairman